APPENDIX K
GLOSSARY

A

Administrative Record. Section 113K of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) requires the establishment of an administrative record which forms the basis for the selection of a response action. The administrative record should include the final documents which are a part of the Department of the Navy's (DON's) decision-making process.

Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement (ARAR). Requirements, including cleanup standards, standards of control, and other substantive environmental protection requirements and criteria for hazardous substances as specified under Federal and state law and regulations, that must be met when complying with CERCLA/SARA.

Aquifer. A geologic formation or structure that is capable of yielding water in usable quantities.

C

Characterization. Facility or site sampling, monitoring, and analysis activities to determine the extent and nature of the release. Characterization provides the basis for acquiring the necessary technical information to develop, screen, analyze, and select appropriate cleanup techniques.

Clean Air Act (CAA). The CAA was passed in 1970 as amendments to 42 USC 7401, and was amended in 1990. Its purpose is to "protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources." Its primary application is through Prevention of Significant Deterioration permits to regulate new potentially polluting facilities. Of increasing importance are the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants.

Clean Water Act of 1977 (CWA). The CWA amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act first passed in 1956. Its objective is to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." The Act's major enforcement tool is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Closure Plan. Documentation prepared to guide the deactivation, stabilization, and surveillance of a waste management unit or facility under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act of 1992 (CERFA). This law amends CERCLA, and requires that the Federal Government identify real property which is not contaminated, and that offers the greatest opportunity for expedited reuse and redevelopment by the community on each facility. The identified parcels of real property must be either free from hazardous substances and petroleum products, including aviation fuel and motor oil, and their derivatives, or the remediation of contamination by those substances should be expedited to facilitate transfer to the public.

Community Relations Plan (CRP). A CRP must be developed and implemented for removal and remedial actions at all Installation Restoration (IR) sites, except in the case of an emergency response. This plan shall consist of (but not be limited to) community relations activities to be used to meet stated objectives, and a mailing list of the appropriate agencies and persons.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Federal statute (also known as Superfund), enacted in 1980 and reauthorized in 1986, that provides the statutory authority for cleanup of hazardous substances that could endanger public health, welfare, or the environment.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP). This plan is associated with the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program and describes the appropriate corrective measures to be implemented at the site. Equivalent to a CERCLA Feasibility Study (FS).

Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI). Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) is the RCRA Corrective Action phase during which the selected cleanup technology is constructed, installed, implemented and/or operated until confirmatory sampling and analysis indicate that cleanup levels have been reached. Equivalent to a CERCLA Remedial Action (RA).

Corrective Measures Study (CMS). The Corrective Measures Study (CMS) evaluates the alternatives for cleanup technology in terms of the specific site characteristics such as contaminants, soil conditions and hydrogeologic conditions in a RCRA Corrective Action cleanup. Equivalent to a CERCLA Remedial Investigation (RI).

D

Defense Site Environmental Restoration Tracking System (DSERTS). A microcomputer based system used to track environmental restoration activities at active installations. The system collects and maintains site related information about environmental remediation and provides reports that detail the information at the DOD Component level. Data gathered by DSERTS will be submitted to RMIS for DOD processing and will be used as the principal source of information for each DOD component in the Annual Report to Congress.

Drinking Water Standard. Concentration limits for certain elements and pollutants that may occur in drinking water; established by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

E

Environmental Restoration. Cleanup and restoration of sites contaminated with hazardous substances during past production or disposal activities.

F

Feasibility Study (FS). A step in the environmental restoration process specified by CERCLA. The objectives of the FS are to identify the alternatives for remediation and to select and describe a remedial action that satisfies the applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements for mitigating confirmed environmental contamination. Successful completion of the FS should result in unimpeded subsequent development of a remedial design for implementation of the selected remedial actions.

Federal Facility Agreement (FFA). An FFA is a legal agreement between the Navy and the EPA regarding the cleanup of sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). This agreement is intended to establish roles, responsibilities, and schedules, and improve communications between all parties. An FFA will become an Interagency Agreement (IAG) when the statutory requirements are incorporated after the Record of Decision (ROD).

Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS). The FUDS process parallels the IR Program process phases, but the program structure is different. FUDS has two major components, inventory and remediation. In the inventory phase, projects are investigated to determine if the site is eligible. The remediation phase includes all of the components of the IR Program, Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI), RI/FS, ROD, and Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA). The FUDS program is implemented by the Army Corps of Engineers.

G

Groundwater. Water beneath the earth's surface in the interstices between soil grains, in fractures, or in porous formations.

Groundwater Remediation. Treatment of groundwater to remove pollutants.

H

Hazardous Waste. As defined in RCRA, a solid waste or combination of solid wastes that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. Hazardous wastes may be *listed* (named on a list within a regulation) or *characteristic* (exhibits one of the four characteristics: corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive).

I

Information Repository. During removal and remedial actions at hazardous waste sites, the cognizant installation shall establish and maintain an information repository available to the public at or near the site of the response action. The repository should contain a copy of items that are made available to the public, i.e., brochures or fact sheets, releases, documents in the administrative record, information on the IR program, and the applicable laws.

Initial Site Characterization (ISC). After discovery of a release from an Underground Storage Tank (UST) and after any initial abatement measures and the site check have been completed, an Initial Site Characterization (ISC) must be done under the RCRA UST program. The ISC should assemble collected information into a report on the site such as the nature and estimated quantity of release; surrounding populations; water quality, use and well locations; storm water/wastewater systems; climatology; land use; results of the site check and initial abatement measures; and results of any free product removals. Equivalent to a CERCLA Preliminary Assessment (PA).

Interagency Agreement (IAG). A formal document in which two or more Federal agencies agree to cooperate. For any installation listed on the NPL, CERCLA, Section 120(e) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the results of the RI/FS. Within 180 days of this review, the DON must enter into an IAG which will identify all necessary remedial actions required at a NPL site.

Interim Remedial Action (IRA). An IRA can be implemented at any time in the restoration process. It is only expected to be an interim measure designed to abate a contamination situation until the final remedial action can be implemented.

L

Long Term Monitoring (LTM). This is the comprehensive evaluation of a site or sites through physical and/or electronic sampling and analysis for either of two reasons. First, LTM is used to demonstrate that a particular remedial action has worked and is continuing to work. Second, LTM can be used to show a continuing low-level concentration of contaminants that does not (at the present time) warrant nor require remedial action.

N

National Priorities List (NPL). Formal listing of the Nation's worst hazardous waste sites, as established by CERCLA.

Neutralization. Treatment of corrosive hazardous wastes to yield a pH near 7.

No Further Action (NFA). This phrase applies to any site where the possibility of contamination no longer exists and, therefore, will require no additional remedial action.

No Further Response Action Planned (NFRAP). NFRAP refers to sites where EPA or the governing authority decides moving further in the site evaluation process is not warranted.

O

Off-Base Contamination. Contaminants found to be migrating off the installation or coming onto the installation from off-base sources.

Operable Unit (OU). An OU is a grouping of sites for one of several reasons, such as when the sites will employ the same response actions on the same approximate time schedule, or the sites are geographically connected, or have a similar characteristic, contaminant, or media.

P

Preliminary Assessment (PA). Initial study phase as required by CERCLA. A Preliminary Assessment (PA) identifies potential areas of contamination for further investigation which will confirm the existence (or non-existence) of contamination. The PA is developed from past records, aerial photographs, employee interviews, and site visits.

R

RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA). The initial RCRA process to determine whether corrective action for a RCRA past practice unit is warranted or to define what additional data must be gathered to make this determination; equivalent to a CERCLA Preliminary Assessment.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). The RCRA process of determining the extent of hazardous waste contamination; equivalent to the CERCLA Remedial Investigation.

RCRA Part A Permit. The first part of a RCRA permit application that identifies treatment, storage, and disposal units within a to-be-permitted facility.

RCRA Part B Permit. The detailed second part of a RCRA permit application that describes wastes managed, quantities, and facilities.

Record of Decision (ROD). This document contains the final decision and agreement between the installation, state, and EPA concerning the selection of the remedial action at a site or group of sites.

Remedial Action (RA). Remedial Action (RA) is the CERCLA phase in which the selected cleanup technology is constructed, installed, implemented and/or operated until confirmatory sampling and analysis indicate that cleanup levels have been reached.

Remedial Design (RD). Remedial Design is the CERCLA phase during which construction parameters and equipment specifications are defined for the selected cleanup technology based on the unique characteristics of the site.

Remedial Investigation (RI). The CERCLA process of determining the extent of hazardous substance contamination and, as appropriate, conducting treatability investigations. The RI provides site-specific information for the FS.

Remedial Project Managers (RPMs). RPMs shall be assigned by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command to manage remedial or other response actions being taken (or needed) at sites in the Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The RPM is responsible for coordinating, directing, and reviewing the IRP work; assuring compliance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP); and recommending action for decisions.

Remedy in Place (RIP). Remedy in Place indicates that a final remedial action has been constructed, implemented, and is operating according to the Remedial Design. An example of this would be a pump and treat system that is installed, operating as designed, and will continue to operate until cleanup levels have been attained. Since operation is on-going, the site cannot be considered as Response Complete (RC).

Removal Action. A removal action is part of the response process and can often be the first response to a release or threatened release. A removal action will employ any means necessary to abate, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release. A removal action is noted as an "IRA" in RMIS.

Response Complete (RC). RC means that the IRP actions are deemed complete and the site is not a threat to public health or the environment. It also can mean that the DOD component is satisfied the IRP at that site is complete and the proper authorities have been or are being notified, where necessary, of this decision.

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). A Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is an advisory group for the restoration process with members from the public, the Navy, and the regulatory agencies. The purpose of RABs is to gain effective input from stakeholders on cleanup activities and increase installation responsiveness to community environmental restoration concerns.

Restoration Management Information System (RMIS). RMIS is a database designed to manage information concerning the IRP. As a management tool, key personnel can track progress and funding expenditures throughout the entire restoration process for any given site on any installation.

S

Sanitary Waste. Wastes, such as garbage, that are generated by normal housekeeping activities and that are not hazardous or radioactive.

Site. A specific location where a hazardous substance was deposited or stored and which is found to have a potential to release contaminants that could endanger human health and safety, and/or the environment.

Site Closeout (SCO). This is the final step for IR sites. Site Closeout is reached when no further response actions under the IRP are appropriate or anticipated and the regulatory agencies concur. For NPL sites, this step will include following the proper procedure for deletion from the NPL according to the NCP (40 CFR 300.425). Actual site closeout is the date that the deletion appears in the Federal Register. It is only under unusual circumstances that a site that has been closed out will be reopened.

Site Inspection (SI). The process under CERCLA to acquire the necessary data to confirm the existence of environmental contamination at identified potential sites and to assess the associated potential risks to human health, welfare, and the environment. The data collected at each site must be sufficient to support the decision for either continuing with an RI/FS or for removing the site from further investigation.

Sole-Source Aquifer. As defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act, an aquifer that is the only source or potential source of drinking water in an area.

Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU). Any unit at a facility from which hazardous constituents might migrate, irrespective of whether the unit was intended for management of solid and/or hazardous waste. This includes, but is not limited to, container storage areas, tanks, surface impoundments, waste piles, land treatment units, landfills, incinerators, injection wells, recycling operations, miscellaneous units, and releases from such units.

T

Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs). Specific allotments (up to $50,000 for a single grant recipient) are made available by the Office of the President to any group of individuals which may be affected by a release or threatened release at any installation which is listed on the NPL under the NCP. Such grants may be used to obtain technical assistance in interpreting information with regard to the nature of the hazard, RI/FS, ROD, RD, selection and construction of the RA, operation and maintenance, or removal action at such facility.

Technical Review Committee (TRC). The TRC is a group of technically cognizant individuals responsible for reviewing technical reports and data for a site. This assemblage should be established after a release or threat of a release has been confirmed at an installation, normally at the end of a PA or SI. A TRC shall be established at all installations, whether NPL or non-NPL for the purpose of reviewing and commenting on actions and proposed actions concerning releases or threatened releases at the installation. The TRC shall consist of (but not be limited to) at least one representative from the installation and cognizant Engineering Field Division (EFD), EPA, appropriate state and local authorities, and a public representative of the community involved. It should be noted that the TRC is not an advisory group nor a decision-making body. DON policy is to convert all TRCs to Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs).

V

Vadose Zone. The unsaturated soil zone (as opposed to the saturated or water-bearing soil zone), located above the water table.

Vitrification. The process of immobilizing waste that produces a glass-like solid that permanently captures the contaminants.